

Charlottetown Amateur Radio Club

President

Bill McMaster VY2WM

Secretary

Vice-President

Treasurer

Julia Ashworth VY2JA

Joel MacNeill VY2KW

Charles Easter VY2CE

Minutes of April 4, 2023 meeting

Due to illness Bill VY2WM sent his apologies. In his place Joel VY2KW called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Members present were:

Joel MacNeill VY2KW

Brent Taylor VY2HF

Richard Burke VY2RB

William Caw VY2CAW

Tracy Allen VY2TAZ

Rick Hews VY2WTF

Fraser Ashworth VY2FA

Ricardo Angel VY2AN

Darrell MacArthur VY2OM

Doug Silliker VY2DS

Charles Easter VY2CE

Micah Gallant VY2MIC

Ron MacKay VE1AIC

Tyler MacNeill VY2TM

Maggie MacEachern VY2MMM

Julia Ashworth VY2JA

Brian Gorgeatt VY2BG

Selina MacArthur VY2OL

Gordon Bernard VY2GB

Joey Ronaghan SWL

Joel VY2KW asked if there was any knowledge of persons sick or silent keys.

It was mentioned that Bill VY2WM was at home with a cold. Julia VY2JA read out an email received from Helen Blake Gaudet regarding her late father Maurice Blake VY2EB. Maurice has left some radio equipment and other radio related items that Helen would be glad to donate to the club or anyone interested. Helen didn't say when her dad had passed away, but after some further research (unfortunately only after the meeting) it was discovered that Maurice went SK on February 26, 2023. He was 95.

Announcements:

None noted.

Minutes of March 7, 2023 meeting:

Joel VY2KW advised that since the minutes for last month's meeting had been emailed to all members there was no need for the secretary to read them. Moved by Rick VY2WTF, seconded by Richard VY2RB to approve the minutes as circulated. Motion carried.

Business arising from the minutes:

Nothing noted.

President report:

Joel VY2KW read out Bill VY2WM's report.

The first item on his report was the K9CYC activation of the Abegweit ferry in celebration of the 40th anniversary of her voyage from PEI to Chicago.

The station will be active from April 15 at 1400 UTC (11am AT) through April 17 0200 UTC (11pm AT on April 16). The frequencies will be on/around 14.238 and 29.000 MHz. The Special Event Station will also be a Boats on the Air Activation.

There was some discussion for the club to participate in this with the suggestion to set up a station close to the old ferry terminal in Borden. Tracey VY2TAZ reached out to the Borden-Carleton Tourism Information Centre to find a suitable site, but was advised that they couldn't accommodate us at this time. They made some alternative suggestions such as the town of Borden or even Lone Oak Brewery, but the club has not followed up on them at this point. If there is interest in a group station then someone from the club would have to take the lead on this. Bill suggested that a simple portable setup similar to what Ricardo VY2AN did for winter field day might be sufficient. That said, any ham from PEI could contact K9CYC during this event from their home station. They would no doubt be thrilled to make contact with a VY2 station.

The second item on Bill VY2WM's report was the new CARC newsletter. Several members of the club have volunteered to prepare a monthly newsletter with the purpose of providing information to members as well as the growing number of not yet members who are interested

in ham radio and may wish to learn more about club activities. The first edition was distributed earlier in the month. In time the newsletter will also be available on our website to increase exposure. Bill thanked all those involved for their time and expertise (which was mostly Brent VY2HF!). Anyone who would like to submit an article or has any suggestions, please contact the club's secretary Julia VY2JA.

Lastly, Bill added that a ham licence was not a necessary prerequisite for club membership. Anyone interested in amateur radio can join and take part in events such as fox hunts as part of a team with a licensed ham.

Treasurer report:

Charles VY2CE reported that for the period from Jan 1 to March 31, 2023 he had received a total income of \$1,906.75. This consists of \$650 tuition fees for the March Basic Course, \$76.75 of donations, \$360 of membership dues, \$20 for equipment sales, and \$800 for the COAX study guides. Charles also reported the following expenses for the same period: \$16.35 for bank charges, \$740.13 for 16 COAX study guides, and \$27.59 for the renewal of the club's domain name.

Moved by Charles VY2CE, seconded by William VY2CAW that the financial report be approved. Motion carried.

Committee reports:

Training/Education:

Brent VY2HF reported that the Spring 2023 Basic course was going well, and that from a total of 14 students some were studying from home. The course started off with 17 students, but some of them have had to drop out due to other commitments. The course is more than halfway through. Next week's classes will cover power supplies and setting up a station. The last class for new teaching material will take place on April 24, after which there will be a few review sessions before the exam. As it stands at the moment, April 24 is the last day that we have the Red Cross conference room available to us. Due to bad weather last month the course is slightly behind; Brent will ask the Red Cross for an extension.

Regarding the exam, Brent said that there would be several exam sessions available, just as there were in the fall. Anyone who wants to rewrite the exam can do so.

The morse code kits that Brent ordered from Atlanta GA have arrived and are in Canada. Bill VY2WM will ask the library if we can host the workshop there again. Brent said that he'd had a phenomenal interest for the morse code kits. The 15 kits that have arrived are all spoken for. Brent will need to order more to meet demand.

For anyone with a basic licence who's not yet qualified to be on the HF bands, passing a morse code exam at 5 wpm is another way to gain full access to all ham bands.

Richard VY2RB brought some morse code oscillators to the meeting to donate to the club. Joel VY2KW and Brent VY2HF thanked him for that.

At this point Micah VY2MIC mentioned that he'd been asked about textbooks for self study. He suggested that the club should always buy in excess for just such a situation rather than sending people to Amazon or other bookstores. Fraser VY2FA suggested the possibility of people donating their used study guides to the club. It was agreed to move this conversation to later on in the evening when we'd be discussing new business.

William VY2CAW asked if Joel VY2KW needed any equipment for show and tell at the basic course next week. Joel thanked William for his offer and said that he'd most likely have it covered.

Repeater Update:

Ron VE1AIC reported that he'd sent a few emails regarding the interference on the fusion repeater, but had not had any response yet. He's planning on checking things out as soon as the last of the ice has melted. In the meantime, the Wednesday Net on the VE1CRA repeater has been moved to 8:00 pm to avoid interference with the weekly Maritime Fusion Net that starts at 7:00 pm.

Ron also brought in a couple of non-working weather stations to donate to anyone who was interested. Joel VY2KW took one, Fraser VY2FA the other.

Summer Field Day:

Ricardo VY2AN said that there was nothing new to report at this time.

Correspondence:

Apart from the email regarding Maurice Blake VY2EB that Julia read out earlier, all other relevant correspondence was shared with members as it was received.

New/Ongoing Business:

Purchase and sale of study guides:

Following Fraser VY2FA's idea that some people might want to donate their used study guides to the club, Micah VY2MIC suggested that we could offer students to either buy a new textbook at full cost or a used one at a reduced price. Any money collected for the used study guides would be given to the original owners of the books.

Brent VY2HF suggested ordering a much larger number of basic study guides when we re-order in August for the next course. That way we'd always have books on hand. It was agreed to table this conversation until the August monthly meeting. According to Rick VY2WTF there are currently 4 advanced textbooks and 2 basic ones available to buy.

Graeme VY2WT asked if the current study guides would still contain all needed information once that exam questions had been updated. Brent VY2HF confirmed that they would.

Maggie VY2MMM suggested setting up a used book section on the club's Discord server.

William VY2CAW had the thought of perhaps setting up a lending library on Discord. Fraser VY2FA asked Micah VY2MIC if it might be possible to put an embedded link to Discord on the website. Micah said that he could put a link on the website that would take you to the Discord webpage.

Future Information Exchange Presentations:

Joel VY2KW said that all the information exchange presentations we'd had so far had been amazing. He continued to say that we had May and June already planned - Thomas Witherspoon K4SWL from North Carolina will join us via Zoom in May and in June we'll be discussing Summer Field Day -, but after those two dates we would really appreciate it if anyone else could volunteer to share a skill or interest with the club. It doesn't have to be very long (5-10 minutes would suffice) and doesn't have to be about radio per se.

Rick VY2WTF asked if we could record those information exchange sessions and put them on our website. That way people could go back later on to watch them again. He said we often go to other people's websites to get information. Why not have such information on our own website? Brent VY2HF said that this could be done, but the audio quality may be very low. Someone suggested that in time we could perhaps also record the classes for the basic radio course and offer a virtual option for students. William VY2CAW voiced the concern that virtual classes with a recorded session may leave the student without a teacher.

Special Activation of Buffalo Aircrafts:

Doug VY2DS, the President of the Summerside Amateur Radio Club, talked about the special activation of the remaining Buffalo aircrafts. The event is to take place on July 22 and 23, including throughout the night, at the Airforce Heritage Park in Summerside. The organizer's original idea was to actually use the plane's own systems, but Doug doesn't feel comfortable with that. Doug and Darrell VY2OM are going to have a look in May to see how exactly we can do it. Their idea is to be located inside of the aircraft, but to use our own equipment. The callsign will be VY2BUF451. The frequencies will be on the 20 and 40 meter bands for sure, possibly also the 10, 15, and maybe even the 80 meter bands, depending on space. Doug has approached the Superstore with the hope to maybe turn it into a bigger event.

Information Exchange:

Brent VY2HF gave a presentation on Software Defined Radio (SDR).

Joel VY2KW adjourned the meeting at 8:47PM.

Julia Ashworth
Secretary

Bill McMaster
President